

THE FEDERATION TRIBUNE



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From the Canadian Teachers' Federation Board of Directors

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) Board of Directors works year-round to champion the interests of teachers and education workers across Canada.

Board members help shape the Federation's national priorities, unite and strengthen our collective voice, and advance high-quality public education. Meeting in person three times a year, the Board tackles pressing policy issues, charts the Federation's strategic direction, and monitors progress on the work that matters most to educators – ensuring your concerns and realities drive the national agenda.



Thank you to all who took their own time to attend the AGM and help us continue to move forward in this work.

As we turn our attention to the new school year, I hope you had a restful summer and wish you a wonderful year ahead.

In solidarity,
Clint Johnston, CTF/FCE President

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Cross-Canada Roundup

A highlight of the AGM is hearing from Member and Associate Organizations.

Leaders from across the country shared both their successes and the challenges facing public education, reinforcing the value of coming together in solidarity, especially as nine Member Organizations prepare to enter bargaining.

Common themes included teacher recruitment and retention challenges, increasing classroom size and complexity, funding pressures, rising workplace violence, and concerns about government policies affecting public education, local decision-making and labour rights. Many also emphasized the importance of collaboration, member engagement, and collective action to improve working and learning conditions. Equity, inclusion, accessibility, reconciliation and Indigenous representation remained key priorities, alongside emerging discussions about the role of artificial intelligence in education. Despite ongoing challenges, many organizations reported notable successes in bargaining, advocacy, governance, and member support, reflecting a shared commitment to supporting educators' well-being and strengthening public education for students and communities across Canada.

Awards and Tribute: Recognizing Outstanding Contributions to Public Education



Excellence in public education, both past and present, was celebrated at the CTF/FCE's 2026 AGM.

On July 9, during a ceremony sponsored by belairdirect, various awards and a tribute were presented in several categories to exceptional individuals whose leadership, commitment, and dedication have had a lasting impact on the teaching profession and public education in Canada and beyond.

A highlight of this year's program was the CTF/FCE Award of Distinction, a unique honour recognizing the recipient's exceptional leadership and commitment to public education.

STANDING UP, SPEAKING OUT, SHAPING CHANGE

From July 8 to 10, the CTF/FCE held its 106th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Ottawa with over 150 delegates and guests.

Delegates explored key issues facing public education today, united by a shared belief that educators shape minds and make a difference. Delegates adopted resolutions supporting truth and reconciliation, protecting students' right to remain enrolled regardless of immigration status, and maintaining high-quality teacher education and certification standards. Resolutions also called for safeguards around artificial intelligence in education. An overview of resolutions carried by the delegates can be found on pages 2 and 3.

The conversations and resolutions that emerged from the AGM underscored the strength of educators working together toward common goals. While challenges may differ across jurisdictions, delegates shared a commitment to protecting public education, supporting students, and advancing equity and human rights.

As the AGM concluded, delegates left with a renewed sense of purpose and solidarity. Through their collective advocacy and leadership, educators continue to help build stronger schools, stronger communities, and a brighter future.

"One of the most fundamental things that gives us strength and power is our connections and relationships. This is what creates our solidarity."

Clint Johnston, CTF/FCE President



CLINT'S CORNER

Connection, Community, Collaboration

This past July, delegates from CTF/FCE Member and Associate Organizations across Canada came together for our most significant governance gathering of the year – our Annual General Meeting. This meeting, together with the meeting of the CTF/FCE Board of Directors that takes place beforehand, are essential gatherings for our organization. They provide a space for us to discuss, debate, and make decisions that will guide the organization. This governance and guidance role is more than enough reason to value the two meetings, but I believe their greatest value lies in something more.

These meetings also give us an opportunity to connect in ways that strengthen our solidarity over the long term – through personal connections. Both during and throughout the meetings, we have time to meet colleagues from very different areas of the country and to hear from them firsthand. Being in-person allows us to pick up on the nuances and context that can't be conveyed digitally: the emotion behind the story of adversity or success, the warmth of greetings delivered with a smile, or the empathy that radiates toward us when we share our struggles. All of these intangibles sustain us in ways that connecting digitally simply can't. Even in this short time together, these interactions create a bond and reinforce our solidarity.

When we return home from the AGM, it is the same for us as it is for our students. Not unlike homework, there will be resolutions and actions for us to tackle; but our biggest take away will be how we felt: understood, heard, supported, and revitalized for the work ahead.



**Canadian
Teachers'
Federation**

Founded in 1920, the CTF/FCE is a national alliance of provincial and territorial teachers' organizations that represent over 370,000 teachers and education workers across Canada. The CTF/FCE is also an affiliate of Education International, which represents more than 33 million educators.

www.ctf-fce.ca

Ce document est aussi
disponible en français.

<https://tr.ee/ogvEaU>



Accepting the award on behalf of his father, the Honourable Murray Sinclair, Niigaan Sinclair spoke about his enduring belief in the power of education:

“There is not a TRC call to action that isn’t about education. And that means that [my father] believed in you and me the most. He stood up for us as teachers. He said, ‘it is the job of teachers who are at the front line who are going to change this country.’ It is up to all of us to take that work.”

His remarks served as a powerful reminder of the critical role educators play in advancing reconciliation and shaping a more just and inclusive future for all.

Special Recognition Award | Prix spécial

Joel Duff
(posthumously) | à titre posthume



Nominated by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation | Candidature proposée par la Fédération des enseignantes-enseignants des écoles secondaires de l'Ontario

Public Education Advocacy Award | Prix de promotion de l'éducation publique

Dr. Marc Spooner, Ph. D.



Nominated by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation | Candidature proposée par la Fédération des enseignantes et enseignants de la Saskatchewan

Special Recognition Award | Prix spécial

Nello Altomare
(posthumously) | à titre posthume



Nominated by the Manitoba Teachers' Society

Tribute to an Outstanding Indigenous Educator | Hommage à une éducatrice autochtone exceptionnelle

Elder | L'ainée Opolahsomuwehs, Dr. Imelda Perley, Ph. D.



Nominated by the New Brunswick Teachers' Association

Special Recognition Award | Prix spécial

Stefanie Tuff



Nominated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Award of Distinction | Prix honorifique

The Honourable | L'honorable Murray Sinclair
(posthumously) | à titre posthume



Nominated by the Manitoba Teachers' Society

“Dad said to become a teacher. Because if you are a teacher, you can change the world”.

Niigaan Sinclair, son of the Honourable Murray Sinclair (Recipient of the CTF/FCE Award of Distinction)

“[In my language, Wolastoqey] ...to learn and to teach have the same root word and that is something we need to celebrate. As I teach, I learn.”

Elder Opolahsomuwehs, Dr. Imelda Perley, C.M., recipient of the Tribute to an Outstanding Indigenous Educator

[Visit our webpage to learn more about recipients' achievements and impact.](#)

Welcoming New CTF/FCE Directors

The AGM also welcomed new members to the CTF/FCE Board of Directors. The Federation looks forward to their leadership in advancing its work across Canada.

- **Robert Mazzotta**, Executive Secretary, Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA)
- **Caroline Foisy**, Executive Director and Chief Negotiator, New Brunswick Teachers' Federation (NBTF)
- **Nicole LeBlanc**, Deputy Executive Director, New Brunswick Teachers' Federation (NBTF)
- **Ruth Burridge**, President, Yukon Association of Education Professionals (YAEP)

Tribute to Dennis Theobald (ATA)

After many years of dedicated service, Dennis Theobald is retiring from his role as Executive Secretary at The Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA). President Johnston praised Theobald's thoughtful and progressive contributions to complex discussions, highlighting his

unique ability to balance professionalism with a self-deprecating sense of humour that lightened challenging conversations. Johnston expressed genuine appreciation for working alongside Theobald and thanked him for his knowledge, professionalism, and warmth, wishing him joy and happiness in whatever comes next.



CTF/FCE President Clint Johnston (left) honours outgoing ATA Executive Secretary Dennis Theobald (right) for his contributions to public education in Alberta and Canada.

Tribute to Chris Cowley (OTF)

President Johnston paid tribute to departing Board member Chris Cowley, who concludes his term as President of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF). After serving as OTF President three separate times, Cowley's contributions speak for themselves. He has been deeply involved in OECTA's provincial executive and previously served in local leadership roles. His dedication to members, particularly Franco-Ontarian educators, has been demonstrated time and time again through his tireless work and extensive travel to connect with educators across Ontario.



CTF/FCE President Clint Johnston (left) paying tribute to OTF President Chris Cowley (right) for his contributions to public education in Ontario.

Special Thanks to Member and Associate Organizations for Co-Hosting Events

At the AGM, the CTF/FCE formally recognized Member and Associate Organizations that co-hosted CTF/FCE events during the year. In appreciation of their commitment and support, certificates of appreciation were presented to the following organizations:



- The New Brunswick Teachers' Federation (NBTF) for co-hosting the 2026 Teacher Collective Bargaining Conference from June 4-6 in Fredericton.
- The Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO), and the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) for co-hosting this year's Women's Symposium from April 30 to May 2 in Toronto.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS: GOVERNING DECISIONS IN ACTION

Below is an overview of some resolutions carried at the CTF/FCE AGM. These resolutions will inform and guide the CTF/FCE's work for the new school year.

CTF/FCE Electoral Reform Advocacy

THAT the CTF/FCE proceed with the Electoral Reform Advocacy to lower the federal voting age to 16.

Support of Truth and Reconciliation and Implementation of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

THAT the CTF/FCE lobby the federal government, in support of truth and reconciliation and the implementation of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, to:

1. refute residential school denialism;
2. support the commitment to truth and reconciliation in education and recognize the work being done by teachers to ensure the Day is meaningful and continuous;
3. maintain the ethical portrayal of the orange shirt, including supporting not-for-profit and non-commercial use of the orange shirt with any proceeds generated going to residential school survivors, Indigenous communities, or youth.

Canada's Men and Boys' Health Strategy

THAT the CTF/FCE investigate the role it may play in the new federal [Men and Boy's Health Strategy](#), its effective communication, and its implementation within the education systems.

Prohibiting the Introduction or Deployment of Anthropomorphic Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

THAT the CTF/FCE lobby the Government of Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to develop model policies, strategies, and, where appropriate, legislation prohibiting the introduction or deployment of anthropomorphic artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including AI companions and other AI systems designed to simulate friendship, counselling, or intimate relationships, in K-12 learning environments or related support settings.

Labelling of AI Simulations or Impersonations of Historical Figures

THAT the CTF/FCE lobby the Government of Canada to introduce legislation requiring clear labelling of artificial intelligence simulations or impersonations of historical figures as representations of non-living persons and limiting their use to appropriate instructional contexts.

Informed Consent for AI Simulations or Impersonations of Living People

THAT the CTF/FCE lobby the Government of Canada to introduce legislation requiring independent and informed consent for any artificial intelligence simulations or impersonations of living people, and that such technologies be used only within an appropriate instructional context.

Ensuring Students Remain Enrolled in School Regardless of their Family's Immigration Status

THAT the CTF/FCE call upon the Government of Canada to work collaboratively with provincial and territorial governments to develop clear guidance ensuring that students whose parents have expiring or pending-status visas are permitted to remain enrolled in school without interruption.

Importance of High Quality Teacher Training Programs and Certification

THAT the CTF/FCE’s public education advocacy campaign include a focus on the importance of high quality teacher training programs and certification, to preserve the high standards of the teaching profession for the benefit of students and public education.

Maintaining High Quality Teacher Training

THAT the CTF/FCE advocate to the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) that CMEC work with provincial and territorial partners to ensure high quality teacher program requirements for certification are maintained, to preserve the high standards of the teaching profession.

Establishment of a biennial CTF/FCE Indigenous and Equity-Deserving Symposium

THAT Procedure 58 of the CTF/FCE Handbook be amended with the following addition: That the CTF/FCE host a symposium for Indigenous and equity-deserving members, to be held biennially.

Closer to home, we’ve met with federal MPs to press for guardrails ensuring AI in K–12 is safe, secure, and human-centered — and released an updated policy brief, [Protecting Students, Educators, and Public Education in the AI Age](#).

Retention and Recruitment: Parachute Survey Series

The CTF/FCE’s research has had a major role in the Federation’s retention and recruitment strategy, anchored by [Parachute, our pan-Canadian educator survey series](#). The [At-a-glance report](#) from our Spring 2026 edition focused on deprofessionalization is available on our website along with insights from the previous editions.



Greetings from Education International

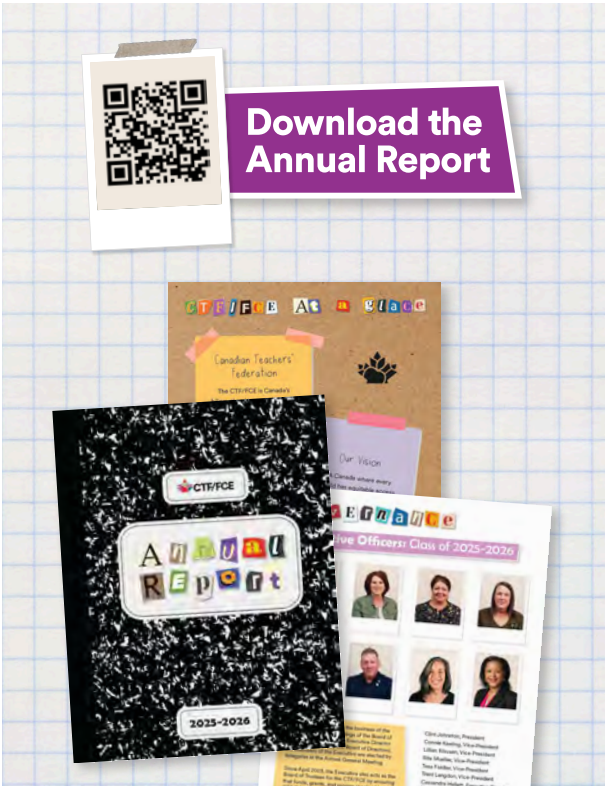
General Secretary of Education International (EI) David Edwards addressed CTF/FCE AGM delegates with a message of solidarity. Watch the [full video on YouTube](#) to learn more about the work our global federation does on behalf of 375 unions in 180 countries and territories. From shaping United Nations recommendations to supporting Palestinian colleagues and advancing union capacity building, the CTF/FCE is proud to contribute to this work.



Report of the EI Executive Board Member from the CTF/FCE

The CTF/FCE is a leading organization within EI through representation on EI’s Executive Board in one of two seats for the North America-Caribbean region. **Shelley L. Morse** of the CTF/FCE is one of the 27 members of the Executive Board.

She provided a report to the AGM which highlighted [EI’s Go Public! campaign](#) as one of their most successful efforts. The campaign has expanded to more than 50 countries and has helped draw attention to the need for qualified teachers and greater investment in public education, while also supporting negotiating teams in improving contracts. Morse also detailed the resolutions from the last Board meeting concerning developments in the Middle East and Cuba, discussing impacts on teachers, students, and families and calling for governments to intervene, while expressing concern about the U.S. and Cuba and comparing it to Ukraine.



Youth and Parents: National Public Opinion Poll on Class Size and Complexity

National research conducted by Abacus Data on behalf of the CTF/FCE finds that students are acutely aware of class size pressures in their schools and are experiencing the consequences in their daily learning. Parents see the same challenges and report impacts extending beyond the classroom into family life. Key findings include:

- 83% of students report experiencing at least one negative consequence linked to large classes or insufficient staffing;
- 76% of students agree that being in a class with a lot of students makes it harder for them to learn;
- 57% of parents agree that challenges at school have added stress to their family.

Read the [full article in the Public Education Journal](#) to learn more about how class size and complexity impacts youth and families.

International Solidarity Teaching Together 2026

The CTF/FCE’s longstanding professional development program, Teaching Together, is solidarity in its most practical form. This July, 46 teachers from across Canada collaborated with 11 union partners in 10 countries across Africa and the Caribbean.

Throughout the program, Canadian teacher volunteers co-developed and co-facilitated professional learning workshops with and for local colleagues.

Are you interested in taking part in the 2027 program? View [our webpage to learn more](#) and contact your provincial/territorial teachers’ organization to apply.



FROM YOUR NATIONAL FEDERATION

National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The broad and complex impacts of AI in public education require urgent action. The CTF/FCE has focused its research on three distinct, but interconnected strands: closing legislative and policy gaps; understanding AI’s risks to teaching, learning, and cognition to respond to changes in classrooms; and developing supportive resources to protect the profession at the bargaining table.

The CTF/FCE has also been at the table internationally – President Clint Johnston and CTF/FCE researcher and policy analyst Mia Travers-Hayward joined Education International’s Global Conference on AI in Brussels in December, and its follow-up [Network Meeting on AI and Technology in Madrid](#) this June.



Mia Travers-Hayward (left) and Iyanuoluwa Akinrinola (right) of the CTF/FCE’s Research team providing an update on AI.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Rita Mueller elected CTF/FCE President-Designate

Rita Mueller, President of the Northwest Territories Teachers’ Association, has been [elected President-Designate of the CTF/FCE](#). Elected by delegates to the 2026 AGM, she will serve as CTF/FCE President for 2027–2029. All other CTF/FCE Vice-Presidents will continue serving on the Executive through the end of their two-year terms in 2027. Rita will succeed Clint Johnston as CTF/FCE President in July 2027.



“I truly hope that if we continue to work together as a team to inform the CTF/FCE on how to best serve our members, we will get through this time.”

Rita Mueller, CTF/FCE President-Designate

Awema Tendesi and Charmaine Leonard Open the 106th CTF/FCE AGM

Awema and Charmaine, cultural ambassadors from [Mādahòkì Farm](#), welcomed delegates to the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe People.

Awema is Anishinabe from Kitigan Zibi in Quebec, and Charmaine is Ojibwe and Cree, living in Ottawa.

This talented duo brought stories to life through rhythmic movement. Their performance combined drumming, singing, and dancing in a harmonious celebration of culture – reflecting the vibrancy, resilience, and beauty of a culture passed through generations.



Robyn Trask on Rights, Labour, and the Rule of Law

Keynote speaker and Canadian Bar Association Vice-President Robyn Trask spoke about governments’ use of the notwithstanding clause, shedding light on a tactic increasingly used to deny collective bargaining and human rights. Through a legal lens, she explored its impact on educators, teacher unions, and the broader labour movement, while raising concerns about its growing use to override fundamental freedoms. Trask also expressed concern about the increasing preemptive use of the clause, arguing that it can undermine both Charter protections and teacher professionalism, particularly when educators are placed in conflict between legal requirements and their responsibilities to create safe, inclusive learning environments.



“A suspension of fundamental rights should be concerning for everyone. I don’t think it’s a partisan issue – it is an issue of fundamental rights and freedoms.”
Robyn Trask, Vice-President of the Canadian Bar Association

Defending Democratic Governance

As governments across the country restructure how education is governed, we’re tracking what’s changing, who’s forcing these changes, and what it means for the profession. [Read the executive summary to learn more.](#)



BINGO

Add a little fun to the back-to-school season. Play with your colleagues and see who can get BINGO first!

Complete a row, column, or diagonal line to win.

Since the beginning of the school year, have you...

Attended a staff meeting	Made plans for World Teachers’ Day on October 5	Started a new book	Drank coffee or tea before 6 AM	Read an article in this edition of <i>The Tribune</i>
Helped a student or colleague	Forgotten your lunch box	Named the president of your teachers’ organization	Used sticky notes	Made a to-do list
Learned something new	Took a brain break		Attended a rally or demonstration	Forgotten your login information
Gotten involved with your teachers’ organization	Planned an activity or lesson	Attended a professional development workshop	Laughed with a colleague	Learned what the CTF/FCE stands for
Organized your desk	Celebrated a success	Advocated for positive change	Wore Red for Ed	Taken a nature walk